

Message

From: Marel King [mking@chesbay.us]
Sent: 12/20/2018 9:36:03 PM
To: Shenk, Kelly [shenk.kelly@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: [External] RE: PA in Balance Council Conference Planning Call Dec 20 3-4pm
Attachments: image003.wmz; image001.wmz

Kelly:

Have you seen any recent documents about this? I'm curious where it stands as far as the "compliance plus." It looks like the initial scale will be small, but as a pilot. How will those first farms be impacted if the standards change for the post-pilot roll-out?

From: Hostetter, Gregory <grhostette@pa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2018 4:01 PM
To: Royer, Matthew B <mzr154@psu.edu>; Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>; Brenda Shambaugh <bshambaugh@pacd.org>; Denise Coleman <denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov>; jbroetz <jbroetz@pfb.com>; Seaton, Mary <mbs13@psu.edu>; Matt Ehrhart <mehrhart@stroudcenter.org>; Shortle, James Samuel <jss15@psu.edu>; Fowler, Lara <lb10@psu.edu>; Jennifer Reed-Harry <jrharry@pennag.com>; Kleinman, Peter <Peter.Kleinman@ars.usda.gov>; McCrone, Nicole D <nmcocrone@pa.gov>; Roush, Richard T <rtr10@psu.edu>; Kasi, Veronica <vbkasi@pa.gov>; John J. Bell <jjbell@pfb.com>; William Neilson <WANEilson@pfb.com>; Wolf, Kristen <kwolf@pa.gov>; Marel King <mking@chesbay.us>; Houser, Christian <cdh13@psu.edu>; angstadtconsult@aol.com; Redding, Russell <rredding@pa.gov>; Whitcomb, Jill <jjwhitcomb@pa.gov>; Wirth, Mary Feehan <mfw10@psu.edu>; Christopher Thompson <ChristopherThompson@lancasterconservation.org>; Jake Reilly <Jake.Reilly@NFWF.ORG>; hcampbell@cbf.org; Reim, Heather <hreim@pa.gov>; McDonnell, Patrick <pmcdonnell@pa.gov>; Loerch, Steven Christopher <scl40@psu.edu>
Cc: Brown, Karl <kbrown@pa.gov>; Goodlander, Douglas <dgoodlande@pa.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: PA in Balance Council Conference Planning Call Dec 20 3-4pm

Greetings All – I wanted to update you on the PACS program status.

The Department of Agriculture, DEP, and SCC is developing the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Stewardship (PACS) program, a new voluntary program designed to recognize Pennsylvania agriculture producers who willingly step forward to document their commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship.

Farmers often lead the way in protecting Pennsylvania's precious soil and water resources, ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy an abundance of healthy food and clean water. Pennsylvania's Green Farm CERTIFIED program is a voluntary program offering farmers who have earned certification a way to let people know instantly that they use the best management practices available for their type of farm operation.

The PACS program provides an opportunity for farmers to work confidentially with a private sector consultant, outside of a state initiated inspection process, to determine their environmental compliance status. Participants can then work with that consultant or other technical support staff to get into compliance without the involvement of state regulatory oversight. When a farmer obtains PACS certification under this new program, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Agency (DEP) will accept PACS certification as meeting their agriculture operation inspection obligation. Therefore, participating farmers will not need to have a separate state inspection by DEP unless there is a later complaint or pollution event associated with the farm.



The following is an outline of PACS pilot project:

Pilot Program Participants:

Conservation Districts: 1) Lancaster, 2) Chester, 3) Adams and 4) Franklin Conservation District

Private Sector Planner: 1) Team AG, 2) Red Barn and 3) Rose Tree Consulting

State Agencies: 1) PDA, 2) DEP, and 3) SCC

Pilot Program Purpose:

Evaluate Process: Test the administrative protocols, process and forms for the proposed PACs Program;

Evaluate Compliance Perspectives: Evaluate perspectives of private sector consultants and conservation district staff regarding “compliance” status based on joint farm inspections to determine if there are significant differences in perceptions of what it means to be in state compliance;

Identify Training Needs: Based on evaluations of administrative process and compliance perspectives, develop training outline for required training component of PACs Program.

Pilot Program Process:

Completion of PACs Applications: Each private sector planner has agreed to identify 1 pilot program farm participant for each participating county conservation district. This will result in 12 total farms (in 4 counties) participating in the pilot program. Private sector consultants will visit each farm, evaluate compliance using draft forms and instructions, and complete a PACs Program application on behalf of each participating farm. These PACs applications will then be forwarded to the appropriate conservation district.

PACs Application Administrative Review: Each county conservation district will conduct an administrative completeness test to ensure that applications received are administratively complete.

On-Farm Joint Evaluation: The district will select at least 1 application to perform an onsite evaluation of the application. This on-farm evaluation will be conducted jointly with the private sector consultant that completed and submitted the PACs application. One key outcome of this joint field evaluation will be to identify and document areas where the “compliance perspectives” between district employees and private sector planners may significantly differ. These compliance perspective difference will be used to help guide the development

Revisions of PACS Forms and Processes: Lessons learned during the pilot program will be used to revise program forms, processes and procedures.

Development of PACs Training Outline: Lessons learned during the pilot process will be used to develop the training outline for the mandatory training component of the PACs Program.

PACs Roll-Out:

Kick-Off: Utilize lessons learned from PACs Pilot to refine processes and procedures, and to prepare for kick-off on Ag Day March 19th 2019. This event will include awarding the first recipients of the PACs Recognition to the successful participants of the pilot program.

Pennsylvania farmers want voluntary ways to prove to their neighbors, customers, and consumers they are doing it right - protecting the environment.

Thank you.

*Best,
Greg*

Gregory E. Hostetter | Deputy Secretary
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From: Royer, Matthew B [<mailto:mzr154@psu.edu>]

Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2018 2:47 PM

To: Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>; Brenda Shambaugh <bshambaugh@pacd.org>; Denise Coleman <denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov>; Brown, Karl <kbrown@pa.gov>; jbroetz <jbroetz@pfb.com>; Seaton, Mary <mbs13@psu.edu>; Matt Ehrhart <mehrhart@stroudcenter.org>; Shortle, James Samuel <jss15@psu.edu>; Fowler, Lara <lbf10@psu.edu>; Jennifer Reed-Harry <jrharry@pennag.com>; Kleinman, Peter <Peter.Kleinman@ars.usda.gov>; McCrone, Nicole D <nmccrone@pa.gov>; Roush, Richard T <rtr10@psu.edu>; Kasi, Veronica <vbkasi@pa.gov>; John J. Bell <jjbell@pfb.com>; William Neilson <WANEilson@pfb.com>; Wolf, Kristen <kwolf@pa.gov>; Marel King <mking@chesbay.us>; Houser, Christian <cdh13@psu.edu>; angstadtconsult@aol.com; Redding, Russell <rredding@pa.gov>; Hostetter, Gregory <grhostette@pa.gov>; Goodlander, Douglas <dgoodlande@pa.gov>; Whitcomb, Jill <jiwhitcomb@pa.gov>; Wirth, Mary Feehan <mfw10@psu.edu>; Christopher Thompson <ChristopherThompson@lancasterconservation.org>; Jake Reilly <Jake.Reilly@NFWF.ORG>; hcampbell@cbf.org; Hetherington Cunfer, Katherine <khethering@pa.gov>; Reim, Heather <hreim@pa.gov>; McDonnell, Patrick <pmcdonnell@pa.gov>

Subject: [External] RE: PA in Balance Council Conference Planning Call Dec 20 3-4pm

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Hi everyone,

To facilitate our call today, hot of the presses is a draft agenda. The document includes some ideas for work session topics at the end of the agenda.

I will work hard to keep this call to one hour. Since I know you will not have a chance to read through this in advance, my plan is to go over the draft with you all quickly, and then back track to get your input into the agenda and topics. Particularly,

1. Do we have the correct plenary "stage setting" topics and format on Day 1?
2. What types of producers should be represented on the producers panel (plenary on the morning of Day 2)?
3. At the most, we will have time for 6 work sessions. What do our work session topics need to be?
4. Entire agenda: ideas for speakers

Talk to you in 15!

Best,
Matt

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From: Royer, Matthew B

Sent: Monday, December 17, 2018 10:23 AM

To: Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>; Brenda Shambaugh <bshambaugh@pacd.org>; Denise coleman <denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov>; kbrown <kbrown@pa.gov>; jbroetz <jbroetz@pfb.com>; Seaton, Mary <mbs13@psu.edu>; Matt Ehrhart <mehrhart@stroudcenter.org>; Shortle, James Samuel <jss15@psu.edu>; Fowler, Lara <lbf10@psu.edu>; Jennifer Reed-Harry <jrharry@pennag.com>; Kleinman, Peter <Peter.Kleinman@ars.usda.gov>; nmccrone <nmccrone@pa.gov>; Roush, Richard T <rtr10@psu.edu>; Kasi, Veronica <vbkasi@pa.gov>; John J. Bell <jjbell@pfb.com>; William Neilson <WANEilson@pfb.com>; Wolf, Kristen <kwolf@pa.gov>; Marel King <mking@chesbay.us>; Houser, Christian <cdh13@psu.edu>; angstadtconsult@aol.com; Redding, Russell <rredding@pa.gov>; Hostetter, Gregory <grhostette@pa.gov>; Goodlander, Douglas <dgoodlande@pa.gov>; Whitcomb, Jill <jiwhitcomb@pa.gov>; Wirth, Mary Feehan <mfw10@psu.edu>; Christopher Thompson <ChristopherThompson@lancasterconservation.org>; Jake Reilly <Jake.Reilly@NFWF.ORG>; hcampbell@cbf.org; Hetherington Cunfer, Katherine <khethering@pa.gov>; Reim, Heather <hreim@pa.gov>; pmcdonnell@pa.gov

Subject: RE: PA in Balance Council Conference Planning Call Dec 20 3-4pm

Hi all,

Thank you all for filling out the doodle poll for a PA in Balance conference planning call later this week.

While no date/time worked for everyone, the winner was **Thursday, December 20, 3-4pm**. Please mark your calendars. Dial in: **1-855-842-7461**.

Thank you!

Matt

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From: Royer, Matthew B

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 12:16 PM

To: Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>; Brenda Shambaugh <bshambaugh@pacd.org>; Denise coleman <denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov>; kbrown <kbrown@pa.gov>; jbroetz <jbroetz@pfb.com>; Seaton, Mary <mbs13@psu.edu>; Matt Ehrhart <mehrhart@stroudcenter.org>; Shortle, James Samuel <jss15@psu.edu>; Fowler, Lara <lbf10@psu.edu>; Jennifer Reed-Harry <jrharry@pennag.com>; Kleinman, Peter <Peter.Kleinman@ars.usda.gov>; nmccrone <nmccrone@pa.gov>; Roush, Richard T <rtr10@psu.edu>; Kasi, Veronica <vbkasi@pa.gov>; John J. Bell <jjbell@pfb.com>; William Neilson <WANEilson@pfb.com>; Wolf, Kristen <kwolf@pa.gov>; Marel King <mking@chesbay.us>; Houser, Christian <cdh13@psu.edu>; angstadtconsult@aol.com; Redding, Russell <rredding@pa.gov>; Hostetter, Gregory <grhostette@pa.gov>; Goodlander, Douglas <dgoodlande@pa.gov>; Whitcomb, Jill <jiwhitcomb@pa.gov>; Wirth, Mary Feehan <mfw10@psu.edu>; Christopher Thompson <ChristopherThompson@lancasterconservation.org>; Jake Reilly <Jake.Reilly@NFWF.ORG>; hcampbell@cbf.org; Hetherington Cunfer, Katherine <khethering@pa.gov>; Reim, Heather <hreim@pa.gov>; pmcdonnell@pa.gov

Subject: RE: PA in Balance Council Scheduling a Conference Planning Call

Hi everyone,

Thanks for a productive meeting on Monday! We began a lot of important conversation on developing the agenda for the 2019 PA in Balance Conference. I am still working on typing notes from the meeting and will send those out to everyone shortly.

As was discussed at the meeting, we have some continued challenges with finding a date for the conference that (1) avoids conflicts with other meetings of interest to potential participants; and (2) allows sufficient time for feedback so it can inform the draft Phase 3 WIP. We learned that the dates I previously emailed to you conflict with the PACD/SCC Winter Meeting in State College. We certainly want to stay away from that conflict.

Thus at Monday's meeting, we settled on holding the PA in Balance Conference on Feb 6-8. Mary Seaton is actively looking for a venue in the Harrisburg/Hershey/Lancaster area. We hope for good news and firm venue and dates very soon!

In the meantime, we discussed the need for having a planning call before Christmas to make some additional progress on the conference agenda. I am looking to schedule a one hour call with as many who can join on either Thursday December 20 or Friday December 21. Please fill out the doodle poll by this Friday so I can get it scheduled by the end of this week: <https://doodle.com/poll/2qekathne8wduw66>

In advance of the call, I will distribute the notes from our meeting on Monday, as well as the start of a draft agenda based on the feedback and ideas shared at the meeting. This can be the starting point for further discussion.

Thanks to all!

--Matt

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From: Royer, Matthew B

Sent: Monday, December 10, 2018 9:08 AM

To: Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>; Brenda Shambaugh <bshambaugh@pacd.org>; Denise coleman <denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov>; kbrown <kbrown@pa.gov>; jbroetz <jbroetz@pfb.com>; Seaton, Mary <mbs13@psu.edu>; Matt Ehrhart <mehrhart@stroudcenter.org>; Shortle, James Samuel <jss15@psu.edu>; Fowler, Lara <lbf10@psu.edu>; Jennifer Reed-Harry <jrharry@pennag.com>; Kleinman, Peter <Peter.Kleinman@ars.usda.gov>; nmccrone <nmccrone@pa.gov>; Roush, Richard T <rtr10@psu.edu>; Kasi, Veronica <vbkasi@pa.gov>; John J. Bell <jjbell@pfb.com>; William Neilson <WANEilson@pfb.com>; Wolf, Kristen <kwolf@pa.gov>; Marel King <mking@chesbay.us>; Houser, Christian <cdh13@psu.edu>; angstadtconsult@aol.com; Redding, Russell <rredding@pa.gov>; Hostetter, Gregory <grhostette@pa.gov>; Goodlander, Douglas <dgoodlande@pa.gov>; Whitcomb, Jill <jiwhitcomb@pa.gov>; Wirth, Mary Feehan <mfw10@psu.edu>; Christopher Thompson <ChristopherThompson@lancasterconservation.org>; Jake Reilly <Jake.Reilly@NFWF.ORG>; hcampbell@cbf.org; Hetherington Cunfer, Katherine <khethering@pa.gov>; Reim, Heather <hreim@pa.gov>; pmcdonnell@pa.gov

Subject: Re: PA in Balance Council Meeting Dec 10 10am to 12pm at PA Farm Bureau or 1-855-842-7461

Good morning,

For those joining this meeting by phone, there are two additional handouts we will be referencing during the meeting:

1. PA in Balance Priority Initiatives Summary Update
2. Phase 3 WIP Ag Workgroup Preliminary Report Summary (DRAFT)

I've attached both of these documents, as well as the agenda for this morning and the 2016 conference agenda for ease of reference.

Thanks!
Matt

From: Royer, Matthew B

Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 4:17 PM

To: Shenk, Kelly; Brenda Shambaugh; Denise coleman; kbrown; jbroetz; Seaton, Mary; Matt Ehrhart; Shortle, James Samuel; Fowler, Lara; Jennifer Reed-Harry; Kleinman, Peter; nmccrone@pa.gov; Roush, Richard T; Kasi, Veronica; John J. Bell; William Neilson; Wolf, Kristen; Marel King; Houser, Christian; angstadtconsult@aol.com; Redding, Russell; Hostetter, Gregory; Goodlander, Douglas; Whitcomb, Jill; Wirth, Mary Feehan; Christopher Thompson; Jake Reilly; hcampbell@cbf.org; Hetherington Cunfer, Katherine; Reim, Heather; pmcdonnell@pa.gov

Subject: RE: PA in Balance Council Meeting Dec 10 10am to 12pm at PA Farm Bureau or 1-855-842-7461

Hi all,

I look forward to seeing those of you who can make it on Monday at 10 AM to the Farm Bureau offices in Camp Hill. Please feel free to participate by phone at 1-855-842-7461 if you cannot join us in person.

A quick update on the 2019 conference, which we will discuss more on Monday: Mary Seaton has been looking for an improved venue for our conference and just this afternoon found it! **We have now reserved the Harrisburg/Hershey Sheraton for January 30-February 1, 2019.** This will allow us to do an evening kickoff reception/welcome on Wednesday evening, followed by a two day conference that will conclude after lunch on Friday. We can discuss this more during our meeting.

To facilitate our planning for the conference, I have attached the final agenda we developed for the 2016 conference. I've also attached the agenda for Monday's meeting once again.

Finally, I do want to bring up conference costs and sponsorship. In both 2008 and 2016, we did require conference registration fees as well as had sponsorships to cover all of the costs. Some of you provided those sponsorships last time, and we thank you. To put on a multiday conference at a nice venue like this with food provided is not the cheapest. The AEC has been able to secure some internal grant funding from the University and will also be providing sponsorship, but it will not cover all of our costs. We would like to explore whether any PA in Balance Council member organizations might be willing to help sponsor this year's conference, so that this year we do not have to charge any registration fees. Since this is an opportunity for critical public input to help shape Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP, we would like to make sure that cost is not a barrier to participation by anyone within the agricultural community.

Many thanks and we will see you on Monday!

--Matt

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From: Royer, Matthew B

Sent: Monday, December 03, 2018 3:09 PM

To: Shenk, Kelly <shenk.kelly@epa.gov>; Brenda Shambaugh <bshambaugh@pacd.org>; Denise coleman <denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov>; kbrown <kbrown@pa.gov>; jbroetz <jbroetz@pfb.com>; Seaton, Mary <mbs13@psu.edu>; Matt Ehrhart <mehrhart@stroudcenter.org>; Shortle, James Samuel <jss15@psu.edu>; Fowler, Lara <lbf10@psu.edu>; Jennifer Reed-Harry <jrharry@pennag.com>; Kleinman, Peter <Peter.Kleinman@ars.usda.gov>; nmccrone <nmccrone@pa.gov>; Roush, Richard T <rtr10@psu.edu>; Kasi, Veronica <vbkasi@pa.gov>; John J. Bell <jjbell@pfb.com>; William Neilson <WANEilson@pfb.com>; Wolf, Kristen <kwolf@pa.gov>; Marel King <mking@chesbay.us>; Houser, Christian <cdh13@psu.edu>; angstadtconsult@aol.com; Redding, Russell <rredding@pa.gov>; Hostetter, Gregory <grhostette@pa.gov>; Goodlander, Douglas <dgoodlande@pa.gov>; Whitcomb, Jill <jiwhitcomb@pa.gov>; Wirth, Mary Feehan <mfw10@psu.edu>; Christopher Thompson <ChristopherThompson@lancasterconservation.org>; Jake Reilly <Jake.Reilly@NFWF.ORG>; hcampbell@cbf.org; Hetherington Cunfer, Katherine <khethering@pa.gov>; Reim, Heather <hreim@pa.gov>; pmcdonnell@pa.gov

Subject: Re: PA in Balance Council Meeting Dec 10 10am to 12pm at PA Farm Bureau or 1-855-842-7461

Hi Everyone,

We now have some further details for the PA in Balance Council meeting on December 10. It will be held at the PA Farm Bureau conference room, 510 S 31st Street, Camp Hill. For those who cannot be there in person, participate by phone at 1-855-842-7461 (no passcode needed). Thanks to Bill Neilson for reserving the room!

Attached is an agenda.

Two items to bring to your attention.

First, we have had some challenges in finding a location for a multi-day PA in Balance conference, but we now have one and we have venue and dates reserved. It will be held on January 31 - February 1, 2019 in the Student Center in the Capitol Union Building on the Penn State Harrisburg Campus. Please mark your calendars and feel free to share these dates with colleagues. We will devote the bulk of our meeting on Monday to conference planning.

Second, I think it would be great to share some brief updates on the progress many partners are making in implementing the PA in Balance priority initiatives since we last met. There is much great work moving forward. To have this session be a productive use of our time and to ensure we have enough time devoted to planning the 2019 conference, I am requesting that if you do have a project you would like to report, please consider filling out this short surveymonkey form to report your project: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8333MBD>. If you have multiple projects to report on, fill out one form for each project (you should be able to fill out the survey more than once). We will collect these and share a summary report document at the meeting. Please submit your reports by COB this Thursday, December 6 so we have time to compile them for Monday.

Thank you!

Matt

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From: Royer, Matthew B

Sent: Friday, November 9, 2018 2:13 PM

To: Shenk, Kelly; Brenda Shambaugh; Denise coleman; kbrown; jbroetz; Seaton, Mary; Matt Ehrhart; Shortle, James Samuel; Fowler, Lara; Jennifer Reed-Harry; Kleinman, Peter; nmccrone@pa.gov; Roush, Richard T; Kasi, Veronica; John J. Bell; William Neilson; Wolf, Kristen; Marel King; Houser, Christian; angstadtconsult@aol.com; Redding, Russell; Hostetter, Gregory; Goodlander, Douglas; Whitcomb, Jill; Wirth, Mary Feehan; Christopher Thompson; Jake Reilly; hcampbell@cbf.org; Hetherington Cunfer, Katherine; Reim, Heather; pmcdonnell@pa.gov

Subject: Re: PA in Balance Council Meeting Dec 10 10am to 12pm

Hi everyone,

Thanks to all who filled out the doodle poll.

While no one date works for all, based on responses we will hold this meeting Monday, Dec 10, from 10am - 12pm.

Please mark your calendars. Agenda, location and other details will follow closer to the date.

Thank you!
Matt

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 2, 2018, at 2:59 PM, Royer, Matthew B <mzr154@psu.edu> wrote:

Dear PA in Balance Council,

It has certainly been some time since we have been together. A big reason for this is the amount of time that many of us are devoting to the development of the Phase 3 WIP, and the many meetings and work we are attending to in order to succeed at this massive undertaking.

However, I believe it is high time—and a good time—for us to reconvene as a council. First, there are certainly updates we need to share on progress in implementing PA in Balance initiative and the Phase 3 WIP.

Second, and related to this, the Phase 3 WIP Ag Workgroup Co-Chairs have discussed with DEP Bay Office staff and facilitators, Co-Chairs of other workgroups (particularly the Communications and Engagement Workgroup) about the idea of convening a 2019 PA in Balance Conference in order to provide those in the agriculture and conservation communities the chance to provide input into the Phase 3 WIP, particularly its agriculture components.

In order to fit the timeframe for successful input into the WIP, we would like to hold this conference in late January or early February. The focus on this conference will be in reviewing preliminary recommendations and action plans coming out of the Phase 3 WIP process and providing input into those recommendations and strategies. We would again look for a location in the Harrisburg/Hershey/Lancaster area to hold this conference. Mary Seaton is currently looking for venues and available dates.

We will certainly wait until after Farm Show and Keystone Farm Show to hold the conference and will also avoid the dates of the PASA Conference. If there are any other major agriculture related events to avoid, please let me or Mary know so we can work around those. We will look to secure this date very soon, and get a save the date out so it makes it to everyone's calendars.

Finally—and I know this is asking a lot with our busy schedules—I would like to try and schedule a Council meeting for the first half of December, so we can get updated on one another's

efforts related to implementing PA in Balance initiatives, and begin planning the 2019 conference. I will ask Ag Workgroup Co-Chairs and others involved in the WIP process to join us as their input will be quite valuable.

Below is a doodle poll to help us find the best available date.

<https://doodle.com/poll/swtmbknnpn77yb2fy>

If you could fill this out by Wednesday, Nov 7, I will get something scheduled by the end of next week.

Thank you much and have a great weekend!

Best regards,
Matt

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